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NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE AND FEE(S) DUE

21832 7590 10/11/2011
MCCARTER & ENGLISH, LLP HARTFORD
CITYPLACE I
185 ASYLUM STREET
HARTFORD, CT 06103

EXAMINER

DEXTER, CLARK F

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3724

DATE MAILED: 10/11/2011

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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09/695,951

10/25/2000

Mark T. Cranna

97309.00045

4713

TITLE OF INVENTION: WOOD CUTTING BAND SAW BLADE

APPLN. TYPE	SMALL ENTITY	ISSUE FEE DUE	PUBLICATION FEE DUE	PREV. PAID ISSUE FEE	TOTAL FEE(S) DUE	DATE DUE
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nonprovisional

NO

\$1740

\$0

\$0

\$1740

01/11/2012

THE APPLICATION IDENTIFIED ABOVE HAS BEEN EXAMINED AND IS ALLOWED FOR ISSUANCE AS A PATENT. PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS CLOSED. THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS. THIS APPLICATION IS SUBJECT TO WITHDRAWAL FROM ISSUE AT THE INITIATIVE OF THE OFFICE OR UPON PETITION BY THE APPLICANT. SEE 37 CFR 1.313 AND MPEP 1308.

THE ISSUE FEE AND PUBLICATION FEE (IF REQUIRED) MUST BE PAID WITHIN THREE MONTHS FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS NOTICE OR THIS APPLICATION SHALL BE REGARDED AS ABANDONED. THIS STATUTORY PERIOD CANNOT BE EXTENDED. SEE 35 U.S.C. 151. THE ISSUE FEE DUE INDICATED ABOVE DOES NOT REFLECT A CREDIT FOR ANY PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE IN THIS APPLICATION. IF AN ISSUE FEE HAS PREVIOUSLY BEEN PAID IN THIS APPLICATION (AS SHOWN ABOVE), THE RETURN OF PART B OF THIS FORM WILL BE CONSIDERED A REQUEST TO REAPPLY THE PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE TOWARD THE ISSUE FEE NOW DUE.

HOW TO REPLY TO THIS NOTICE:

I. Review the SMALL ENTITY status shown above.

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as YES, verify your current SMALL ENTITY status:

A. If the status is the same, pay the TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above.

B. If the status above is to be removed, check box 5b on Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal and pay the PUBLICATION FEE (if required) and twice the amount of the ISSUE FEE shown above, or

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as NO:

A. Pay TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above, or

B. If applicant claimed SMALL ENTITY status before, or is now claiming SMALL ENTITY status, check box 5a on Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal and pay the PUBLICATION FEE (if required) and 1/2 the ISSUE FEE shown above.

II. PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL, or its equivalent, must be completed and returned to the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) with your ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). If you are charging the fee(s) to your deposit account, section "4b" of Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal should be completed and an extra copy of the form should be submitted. If an equivalent of Part B is filed, a request to reapply a previously paid issue fee must be clearly made, and delays in processing may occur due to the difficulty in recognizing the paper as an equivalent of Part B.

III. All communications regarding this application must give the application number. Please direct all communications prior to issuance to Mail Stop ISSUE FEE unless advised to the contrary.

IMPORTANT REMINDER: Utility patents issuing on applications filed on or after Dec. 12, 1980 may require payment of maintenance fees. It is patentee's responsibility to ensure timely payment of maintenance fees when due.

PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL

**Complete and send this form, together with applicable fee(s), to: Mail Mail Stop ISSUE FEE
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
or Fax (571)-273-2885**

INSTRUCTIONS: This form should be used for transmitting the ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). Blocks 1 through 5 should be completed where appropriate. All further correspondence including the Patent, advance orders and notification of maintenance fees will be mailed to the current correspondence address as indicated unless corrected below or directed otherwise in Block 1, by (a) specifying a new correspondence address; and/or (b) indicating a separate "FEE ADDRESS" for maintenance fee notifications.

CURRENT CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS (Note: Use Block 1 for any change of address)

Note: A certificate of mailing can only be used for domestic mailings of the Fee(s) Transmittal. This certificate cannot be used for any other accompanying papers. Each additional paper, such as an assignment or formal drawing, must have its own certificate of mailing or transmission.

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HARTFORD, CT 06103

Certificate of Mailing or Transmission

I hereby certify that this Fee(s) Transmittal is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage for first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Mail Stop ISSUE FEE address above, or being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO (571) 273-2885, on the date indicated below.

(Depositor's name)
(Signature)
(Date)

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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09/695,951 10/25/2000 Mark T. Cranna 97309.00045 4713

TITLE OF INVENTION: WOOD CUTTING BAND SAW BLADE

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nonprovisional NO \$1740 \$0 \$0 \$1740 01/11/2012

EXAMINER	ART UNIT	CLASS-SUBCLASS
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DEXTER, CLARK F 3724 083-846000

1. Change of correspondence address or indication of "Fee Address" (37 CFR 1.363).

- ☐ Change of correspondence address (or Change of Correspondence Address form PTO/SB/122) attached.
☐ "Fee Address" indication (or "Fee Address" Indication form PTO/SB/47; Rev 03-02 or more recent) attached. **Use of a Customer Number is required.**

2. For printing on the patent front page, list

- (1) the names of up to 3 registered patent attorneys or agents OR, alternatively, 1 _____
(2) the name of a single firm (having as a member a registered attorney or agent) and the names of up to 2 registered patent attorneys or agents. If no name is listed, no name will be printed. 2 _____
3 _____

3. ASSIGNEE NAME AND RESIDENCE DATA TO BE PRINTED ON THE PATENT (print or type)

PLEASE NOTE: Unless an assignee is identified below, no assignee data will appear on the patent. If an assignee is identified below, the document has been filed for recordation as set forth in 37 CFR 3.11. Completion of this form is NOT a substitute for filing an assignment.

(A) NAME OF ASSIGNEE (B) RESIDENCE: (CITY and STATE OR COUNTRY)

Please check the appropriate assignee category or categories (will not be printed on the patent) : ☐ Individual ☐ Corporation or other private group entity ☐ Government

4a. The following fee(s) are submitted:

- ☐ Issue Fee
☐ Publication Fee (No small entity discount permitted)
☐ Advance Order - # of Copies _____

4b. Payment of Fee(s); (Please first reapply any previously paid issue fee shown above)

- ☐ A check is enclosed.
☐ Payment by credit card. Form PTO-2038 is attached.
☐ The Director is hereby authorized to charge the required fee(s), any deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number _____ (enclose an extra copy of this form).

5. Change in Entity Status (from status indicated above)

- ☐ a. Applicant claims SMALL ENTITY status. See 37 CFR 1.27. ☐ b. Applicant is no longer claiming SMALL ENTITY status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)(2).

NOTE: The Issue Fee and Publication Fee (if required) will not be accepted from anyone other than the applicant; a registered attorney or agent; or the assignee or other party in interest as shown by the records of the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

Authorized Signature _____ Date _____

Typed or printed name _____ Registration No. _____

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.311. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450.

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EXAMINER

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3724

DATE MAILED: 10/11/2011

Determination of Patent Term Adjustment under 35 U.S.C. 154 (b) (application filed on or after May 29, 2000)

The Patent Term Adjustment to date is 417 day(s). If the issue fee is paid on the date that is three months after the mailing date of this notice and the patent issues on the Tuesday before the date that is 28 weeks (six and a half months) after the mailing date of this notice, the Patent Term Adjustment will be 417 day(s).

If a Continued Prosecution Application (CPA) was filed in the above-identified application, the filing date that determines Patent Term Adjustment is the filing date of the most recent CPA.

Applicant will be able to obtain more detailed information by accessing the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) WEB site (<http://pair.uspto.gov>).

Any questions regarding the Patent Term Extension or Adjustment determination should be directed to the Office of Patent Legal Administration at (571)-272-7702. Questions relating to issue and publication fee payments should be directed to the Customer Service Center of the Office of Patent Publication at 1-(888)-786-0101 or (571)-272-4200.

Privacy Act Statement

The Privacy Act of 1974 (P.L. 93-579) requires that you be given certain information in connection with your submission of the attached form related to a patent application or patent. Accordingly, pursuant to the requirements of the Act, please be advised that: (1) the general authority for the collection of this information is 35 U.S.C. 2(b)(2); (2) furnishing of the information solicited is voluntary; and (3) the principal purpose for which the information is used by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is to process and/or examine your submission related to a patent application or patent. If you do not furnish the requested information, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office may not be able to process and/or examine your submission, which may result in termination of proceedings or abandonment of the application or expiration of the patent.

The information provided by you in this form will be subject to the following routine uses:

1. The information on this form will be treated confidentially to the extent allowed under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552) and the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552a). Records from this system of records may be disclosed to the Department of Justice to determine whether disclosure of these records is required by the Freedom of Information Act.
2. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, in the course of presenting evidence to a court, magistrate, or administrative tribunal, including disclosures to opposing counsel in the course of settlement negotiations.
3. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Member of Congress submitting a request involving an individual, to whom the record pertains, when the individual has requested assistance from the Member with respect to the subject matter of the record.
4. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a contractor of the Agency having need for the information in order to perform a contract. Recipients of information shall be required to comply with the requirements of the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a(m).
5. A record related to an International Application filed under the Patent Cooperation Treaty in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization, pursuant to the Patent Cooperation Treaty.
6. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to another federal agency for purposes of National Security review (35 U.S.C. 181) and for review pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act (42 U.S.C. 218(c)).
7. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the Administrator, General Services, or his/her designee, during an inspection of records conducted by GSA as part of that agency's responsibility to recommend improvements in records management practices and programs, under authority of 44 U.S.C. 2904 and 2906. Such disclosure shall be made in accordance with the GSA regulations governing inspection of records for this purpose, and any other relevant (i.e., GSA or Commerce) directive. Such disclosure shall not be used to make determinations about individuals.
8. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the public after either publication of the application pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 122(b) or issuance of a patent pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 151. Further, a record may be disclosed, subject to the limitations of 37 CFR 1.14, as a routine use, to the public if the record was filed in an application which became abandoned or in which the proceedings were terminated and which application is referenced by either a published application, an application open to public inspection or an issued patent.
9. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Federal, State, or local law enforcement agency, if the USPTO becomes aware of a violation or potential violation of law or regulation.

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/695,951

Examiner

CLARK F. DEXTER

Applicant(s)

CRANNA ET AL.

Art Unit

3724

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the response filed on March 10, 2011.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-5,7-14 and 21-56.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: ____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date ____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date ____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).**
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date ____. |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date ____ | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other ____. |

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Kevin Reiner on October 3, 2011.

2. The application has been amended as follows:

In the Claims

Claim 3, line 16, --set-- has been inserted after "respective";
line 18, --set-- has been inserted after "respective".

Claim 10 has been rewritten as follows:

-- 10. (Currently Amended) The band saw blade of claim 1 wherein:
the at least a portion of the shelf comprises a shelf surface that extends is
~~generally planar and is disposed~~ at an angle (A1), wherein the angle ~~[[that]]~~ is within the
range of approximately 4° to approximately 10° relative to the substantially planar back
edge portion of the band saw blade.--.

Claim 23, line 4, --set-- has been inserted after "respective".

Claims 25 and 26 have been rewritten as follows:

-- 25. (Currently Amended) The band saw blade of claim 9 wherein each of the plurality of set teeth comprises a second shelf; and a length (L2) of a surface of each second shelf ~~surface~~ is within the range of approximately 70% to approximately 90% of (L1).

26. (Currently Amended) The band saw blade of claim 25 wherein the length (L2) of the surface of each second shelf is approximately 80% of (L1).--.

Claim 29 has been rewritten as follows:

-- 29. (Currently Amended) The band saw blade of claim 28 wherein the means for reducing the quantity of dust further comprises a relief portion extending from the tip of the respective [[a]] set tooth at an acute angle to a transverse axis of the saw blade.--.

Claims 31 and 32 been rewritten as follows:

-- 31. (Currently Amended) A wood cutting band saw blade that generates dust during cutting of wood, the band saw blade comprising:

a base having a back edge including a substantially planar portion;

a cutting edge defined by a plurality of teeth spaced relative to each other and being located on an opposite side of the band saw blade relative to the back edge, the plurality of teeth comprising a plurality of set teeth, each set tooth defining a tip, a bend plane from which the set tooth is set, the bend plane extending substantially parallel to

the substantially planar back edge portion of the band saw blade, and first means for reducing saw dust passing to a kerf and accumulating on the band saw blade, the first means being located on a front portion of each set tooth with respect to a cutting direction of the band saw blade and exposed during cutting, and being located at least partially between the tip and the bend plane, and at least a portion of the first means being planar and extending substantially parallel to the substantially planar back edge portion or at least a portion of the first means being planar and extending at an angle in a direction that is opposite the cutting direction and generally toward the back edge of the band saw blade ~~for reducing saw dust passing to the kerf and accumulating on the band saw blade~~, wherein:

each of the set teeth has a dimension (S1) defined as the distance between the tip and said first means of the respective set tooth;

each of the set teeth has a dimension (B) defined as the distance between the tip and the bend plane of the respective set tooth; and

a ratio of $S1/B$ is within the range of approximately 1/4 to approximately 3/4.

32. (Currently amended) The band saw blade of claim 31 wherein:

the ~~[[a]]~~ plurality of set teeth each comprising second means for reducing saw dust passing to the kerf and accumulating on the band saw blade;

each second means defines a dimension (S2) extending between the tip of the respective set tooth and the second means.--.

Claims 34 and 35 have been rewritten as follows:

-- 34. (Currently amended) A wood cutting band saw blade that generates dust during cutting of wood, the band saw blade comprising:

- a base having a back edge including a substantially planar portion;
- a cutting edge defined by a plurality of teeth spaced relative to each other and being located on an opposite side of the band saw blade relative to the back edge, the plurality of teeth comprising a plurality of set teeth, each set tooth defining a tip, a bend plane from which the set tooth is set, the bend plane extending substantially parallel to the substantially planar back edge portion of the band saw blade, a dust gap dimension extending approximately between an outer lateral point of the tip and a lateral surface of the base, and means for effectively reducing the dust gap dimension, the reducing means being located on a front portion of each set tooth with respect to a cutting direction of the band saw blade and exposed during cutting, and being located between the tip of each set tooth and the bend plane, wherein at least a portion of the reducing means is planar and extends parallel to the substantially planar back edge portion or is planar and extends at an angle in a direction that is opposite the cutting direction and generally toward the back edge of the band saw blade.

35. (Currently amended) The band saw blade of claim 34 wherein the means for effectively reducing the dust gap dimension comprises at least one shelf--.

Claims 38 and 39 have been rewritten as follows:

- 38. (Currently Amended) A wood cutting band saw blade that generates dust during cutting of wood, the band saw blade comprising:
- a base having a back edge including a substantially planar portion;
 - a cutting edge defined by a plurality of teeth spaced relative to each other and being located on an opposite side of the band saw blade relative to the back edge, the plurality of teeth comprising a plurality of set teeth, each set tooth defining a tip, a bend plane from which the set tooth is set, the bend plane extending substantially parallel to the substantially planar back edge portion of the band saw blade, and a shelf being located on a front portion of each set tooth with respect to a cutting direction of the band saw blade and exposed during cutting, and being located at least partially between the tip and the bend plane, and at least a portion of the shelf being planar and extending substantially parallel to the substantially planar back edge portion or being planar and extending at an angle in a direction that is opposite the cutting direction and generally toward the back edge of the band saw blade for reducing saw dust passing to the kerf and accumulating on the band saw blade, wherein:
 - each of the set teeth has a dimension (S1) defined as the distance between the tip and the shelf of the respective set tooth;
 - each of the set teeth has a dimension (B) defined as the distance between the tip and the bend plane of the respective set tooth; and
 - a ratio of $S1/B$ is within the range of approximately $1/4$ to approximately $3/4$.

39. (Currently amended) The band saw blade of claim 38 wherein:

the [[a]] plurality of set teeth each comprises a second shelf;

each second shelf comprises a second shelf surface, and each second shelf defines a dimension (S2) extending between the tip of the respective set tooth and the second shelf.--.

Claim 48 has been rewritten as follows:

-- 48. (Currently Amended) The band saw blade of claim 27 wherein the means for reducing the quantity of dust passing through the dust gap and accumulating on the band saw blade includes a relief portion defining a substantially flat surface formed on an upper corner of the [[a]] respective set tooth on an outer side of the set tooth, wherein the relief portion extends between the shelf and the tip of the respective set tooth and is oriented at an acute angle with respect to a plane defined by the remaining portion of the respective side of the set tooth for reducing an effective dust gap of the set tooth.--.

Claim 50 has been rewritten as follows:

-- 50. (Currently Amended) The band saw blade of claim 31, wherein the first means for reducing saw dust passing to the kerf and accumulating on the band saw blade comprises at least one shelf.--.

Specification

Page 5, line 10, "17, 17', etc." has been changed to --17', 17", etc.--.

The replacement paragraph filed on November 27, 2002 for the paragraph bridging pages 6-7 of the specification has been rewritten as follows:

-- It will be understood by one of ordinary skill in the pertinent art that the location and dimensions of the shelf 30, 30' affects the functionality of the shelf in removing dust. For simplicity, the following will use tooth 17' for an example in describing the location of the shelf 30'; however, it will be understood that this description may be equally applicable to all teeth disposed on the band saw blade 10. As shown in FIG. 2, the distance between the tip 20' and shelf tip 36' is defined as "S1," and the distance between the tip 20' and the bend plane 18 is defined as "B". Also, the distance between the tip 20' and the curvilinear base surface 26 is defined as "D". If S1 is set equal to or greater than ~~[[below]]~~ B, then the shelf 30' will not be in a proper location to "catch" and remove the dust cut from the kerf wall 38. Specifically, a dust gap "DG" is defined between a lateral point 40' of the tooth 17' (which also establishes the kerf wall 38) and a side surface 42 at the base of the band saw blade 10. Effectively, the shelf 30' reduces the size of the dust gap or creates an effective dust gap "EDG" that is substantially less than DG.--.

The replacement paragraph filed on November 27, 2002 for the paragraph that bridges pages 9-10 of the specification has been rewritten as follows:

-- The band saw blade 210 is generally similar to the band saw blade 10 of FIGS. 1-3; however, each set tooth 217', 217", etc. further includes a relief portion 244', 244", respectively, formed on the upper corner of the tooth on the side facing the respective kerf wall 238. As illustrated in FIG. 5, the relief portions 244', 244" each define a relief angle RA', RA" [["RA"]] (shown in FIG. 5). The relief portions form an angle which is preferably within the range of between approximately 0° and approximately 2° with respect to a plane defined by the unset tooth 220. The relief portions 244', 244" function to locate the respective shelf 230 closer to the kerf wall 238 to thereby further reduce the dust gap DG to DG1 and, in turn, decrease the effective dust gap from EDG to EDG1. The relief portion may also define a tangential angle "TA" (shown in FIG. 6). In this way, the edge is relieved to reduce the effects of friction during cutting of a work piece (not shown). The angle TA is preferably within the range of between approximately 3° and approximately 6° with respect to a plane defined by the side of the blade body 210. It will be understood that the dimensions and interrelationship of S1 and B, as described above, applies to the current embodiment as well. The straight or unset tooth 220 provided in this embodiment also includes a shelf 230 similar to that described above.--.

Additional Prior Art

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The newly-cited prior art disclose inventions which have features similar to the claimed invention. However, these inventions, each taken alone or in combination with the prior art of record, do not teach or fairly suggest the claimed invention.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The prior art of record, either taken alone or in combination, does not teach or fairly suggest the claimed invention. For example, the prior art of record does not teach or suggest a saw as claimed including the combination of features including a shelf (claims 1, 3, 12 and 38)/ a means for reducing (claims 27)/ a first means for reducing (claim 31)/ a means for effectively reducing (claim 34) that is located on a front portion of each set tooth with respect to a cutting direction of the band saw blade and exposed during cutting, and is located between the tip of each set tooth and the bend plane, wherein at least a portion thereof is planar and extends parallel to the substantially planar back edge portion or is planar and extends at an angle in a direction that is opposite the cutting direction and generally toward the back edge of the band saw blade.

It is noted that while it may appear that the shelf of Nakahara '573, particularly as viewed in Fig. 4C, starts out parallel to a back edge thereof, the shelf does not include a

planar portion that extends parallel to the back edge. Rather, it only has a portion of a curve, wherein a tangent of that portion may be considered to be parallel to the back edge.

Further, it is noted that Drake, pn 2,714,317 may include a shelf structure that meets some of the claim limitations. However, the shelf structure is covered with at least cutting tooth (referred to as tip member) A and thus is not exposed during cutting.

Further, it is noted that while Grellck, pn 820,969 has very similar structure, the structure falls short of what is claimed at least because the planar portion(s) of the shelf (or shelves) extends at an angle that is opposite to that which is claimed; that is, the shelf (or shelves) extend in a direction that is opposite the cutting direction and generally away from the back edge of the band saw blade.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to CLARK F. DEXTER whose telephone number is (571)272-4505. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Boyer D. Ashley can be reached on 571-272-4502. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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**/CLARK F DEXTER/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3724**

cfd
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